

Department Head Blog

November 17, 2020

Although the Atlantic Bubble continues to hold strong, a smattering of COVID-19 cases across the Maritimes and the sharp rise of cases nationally, serve as stark reminders that we must maintain our vigilance. Despite COVID fatigue, it is important that we continue to follow the advice of Public Health at work – frequently wash our hands, properly wear our masks and PPE and socially distances as much as is practical in our workspace.

Learners are the lifeblood of any academic department and we are privileged to host four residency training programs. Successful completion of residency is a significant milestone in the career of an Emergency Physician. This year COVID-19 posed unprecedented challenges to our graduating class of residents. Through their hard work and tenacity, I am pleased to inform you that all of our residents successfully passed their exams! Please join me in congratulating from the RCPS program Drs. James Gould and Luc Richardson; from the CCFP(EM) program Drs. Catherine Cox, Amelie Hendriks, Nicholas Humphreys, Brent McCullum, Joel Prive and Colin Rouse; from the iFMEM program Drs. Allyson Cornelis and Renee Amiro; and from the PEM Fellowship program Drs. Ashley Martin, Racheal MacIntosh and Ronnie May. In addition, Drs. Erin Slaunwhite and Dan Hines who just finished their CCFP(EM) residency at Queens and are working at the SJRH were also successful, as was Dr. Patricia Dutton, a CCFP(EM) practice eligible candidate who is working the Sussex Health Centre and Charlotte County Hospital in NB. Amazing job everyone! Thank you to everyone who contributed to their success – from program administrators/coordinators, to teachers and mentors – you have made and continue to make our programs so successful.

Not to be outdone by her graduating peers, Dr. Stephanie Fong, one of our current CCFP(EM) residents, won this year's Resident Leadership – Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association Award. Stephanie joined the Dalhousie community after graduating from the Schulich School of Medicine at Western University. She completed her family medicine residency training at the Department of Family Medicine's Halifax Site and is currently a resident in the Dalhousie Family Medicine-Emergency Medicine enhanced skills program. She is currently a member of the Maritime Resident Doctors board of directors and was elected to the National Resident Doctors of Canada (RDoC) board this year. Along the way, she has demonstrated hands-on leadership in delivering varied projects, such as facilitating cross-country workshops as a resiliency peer trainer for RDoC, and as the resident representative to the CFPC Joint Action Committee on Child and Adolescent Health. She was actively involved in advocating for residents as a Halifax Associate Co-Chief Resident at both the residency program and departmental level and continues to serve in this capacity as the current CCFP(EM) Chief Resident. Her interest in medical education has led her to be involved in undergraduate medical education at the Dalhousie Medical School as presenter and tutor throughout her residency. Congratulations and well deserved, Stephanie!

Last Tuesday concluded our East Coast Fall Research Series. Dr. Brian Rowe, who served as a mentor to me, Aaron Sibley and Andrew Travers during our residencies at the University of Alberta was the keynote speaker. The Scientific Director at the Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health (ICRH), Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and a Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine and School of Public Health, University of Alberta, his keynote address "Reflections on a

Career in Emergency Medicine Research” was the perfect finale to our virtual Research Series. Dr. Rowe generously donated \$500 dollars to support research in our Department.

Mr. Garrett McDougall, a medical student, was the top presenter for the evening for his project “An Analysis of ICU Transfers in Nova Scotia – Does the transfer of Critically Ill Patients in Nova Scotia Between ICUs Improve Outcomes?”. Dr. Bethany Woodrow, an Internal Medicine Resident, won the Dr. Doug Sinclair Resident Research Award for her study “Exploration of Interprofessional Interactions Between the ED and the MTU-ED Teams and Their Impact on Workplace Climate”. The overall Top Research Award went to Dr. Sean Hurley, RCPS resident for his study “Resuscitative Endovascular Balloon Occlusion of the Aorta (REBOA) Candidacy Among Major Trauma Patients in Nova Scotia: Comparison of Clinical and Anatomical Criteria”. Congratulations to all of the award winners, their research teams and their mentors for their excellent high-quality work. Well done!

I would like to welcome Ms. Kym Paquette to the Department as the Interim COO for the C/AFP Department of Emergency Medicine. Kym is a CPA and was the executive Director of the Treasury Board at the Province of Nova Scotia, a Senior Manager with Ernst & Young’s Risk Advisory practice and a Revenue Manager in the finance department at Capital Health. Kym brings a wealth of experience to the COO position. Please join me in welcoming her to our team.

As November draws to a close, please mark your calendars on December 4th from 9:30 to 11:00. I hope that you will join me on [Zoom](#) as we unveil our new Departmental logo and launch our Strategic Plan 2020-25.

As always, if you have any comments, suggestions or news you would like me to share, I can be reached at emergency.medicine@dal.ca.

Cheers, Kirk